

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOMENICI: PRESIDENT SENT BILL WITH EMERGENCY FUNDS
FOR CRITICAL NEEDS
WITHIN NATION'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPLEX

President Expected to Sign FY2000 Supplemental Funding

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Pete Domenici, chairman of the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, today reported that the Senate has completed congressional action on, and sent to the White House, a emergency funding package that provides a total of \$330.5 million for the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons complex.

The FY2000 funding, portions of which will go to both Sandia and Los Alamos national laboratories in New Mexico, will be used to begin addressing existing security, infrastructure and personnel needs at the facilities. Funding was also provided for Cerro Grande Fire damage recovery needs at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

"This funding is only the start of what is actually needed to adequately correct some very serious problems with the DOE nuclear weapon complex. Last fall's, 30-day review of the complex by DOE clearly shows that we cannot neglect these problems any longer if we expect this aspect of our national security program to operate efficiently," Domenici said.

The funding is part of an emergency supplemental appropriations package gained final congressional approval from the Senate Friday. The funding is attached to the FY2001 Military Construction Appropriations Bill (H.R.4425). The president has indicated he will sign the bill.

The bill provides \$192.5 million for DOE, of which roughly \$74 million is designated for work carried out at Sandia and Los Alamos. The bill directs other portions of this funding for needs at DOE nuclear complex facilities throughout the nation.

- The non-fire New Mexico supplemental funding includes:
- C \$20 million to keep pit production on schedule at Los Alamos National Laboratory (\$5 million emergency supplemental for LANL pits, and \$15.4 million pit reprogrammed from existing FY2000 funds). (*\$0 requested by Clinton administration*);
 - C \$14 million for support of critical personnel and weapons activities at Sandia National Laboratories (*\$0 requested by Clinton administration*);
 - C \$10 million for upgrades to the Transportation Safeguards Division based in Albuquerque for fleet security upgrades (*\$0 requested by Clinton administration*); and,
 - C \$45 million to begin implementation of cyber security upgrades at the most critical areas of the three weapons laboratories. Sandia will be the lead laboratory for developing the cyber-security architecture for the nuclear weapons complex. (*\$0 requested by Clinton administration*).

Related to the Cerro Grande Fire that closed and damaged LANL in May, the bill provides \$138 million. This funding level, worked out between Congress and the White House, would be used for physical damage and destruction (repair and risk management); restoring service utilities and telecommunications); emergency response (fire risk reduction, fire fighting equipment, etc.); and, resuming operations (includes site-wide NEPA analysis).

Domenici, who chairs of the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee that has funding jurisdiction over DOE and its nuclear weapons labs and facilities, indicated that he is ready to provide other funding if it is needed by LANL to sufficiently recover from the Cerro Grande Fire.